## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service





# **News Release**

Public Affairs Office PO Box 1306 Albuquerque, NM 87103 505/248-6911 505/248-6915 (Fax)

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma •Texas) www.fws.gov/southwest/

#### For Immediate Release

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### Service Hosts Four Public Hearings to Obtain Comments on the Listing Proposal for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will conduct four public hearings to obtain comments on the Service's proposal to list the lesser prairie-chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (Act). Public hearings will be held in Woodward, Oklahoma; Garden City, Kansas; Lubbock, Texas; and Roswell, New Mexico.

On December, 11, 2012, the Service published a proposal to list the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened and opened a 90-day public comment period. The Service is requesting information from the public and scientific community that will assist us in making a final listing determination. A final determination on whether to list the lesser prairie-chicken must be published by September 30, 2013.

The four public hearings will provide an opportunity for the public to provide oral and written comments on the listing proposal. Prior to each public hearing, the Service will have a one-hour informational meeting in order to provide the public the opportunity to obtain information on the lesser prairie-chicken and the listing proposal. Below are the dates and locations for each public meeting and hearing:

#### Tuesday, February 5, 2013

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Informational Mtg. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Public Hearing High Plains Technology Center Seminar Center 3921 34th Street Woodward, OK 73801

#### Thursday, February 7, 2013

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Informational Mtg. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Public Hearing Garden City Community College Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building, Auditorium 801 N. Campus Drive Garden City, KS 67846-6333

#### Monday, February 11, 2013

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Informational Mtg. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Public Hearing Lubbock Civic Center 1501 Mac Davis Lane Lubbock, TX 79401

#### Tuesday, February 12, 2013

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Informational Mtg. 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Public Hearing ENMU Fine Arts Auditorium 64 University Blvd. Roswell, NM 88203 The lesser prairie-chicken is a species of prairie grouse commonly recognized for its feathered feet and stout build. Plumage of the lesser prairie-chicken is characterized by a cryptic pattern of alternating brown and buff-colored barring. Males display brilliant yellow-orange eyecombs and reddish-purple air sacs during courtship displays. More information on the lesser prairie-chicken and the listing proposal can be found at <a href="http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/LPC.html">http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/LPC.html</a>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at <a href="www.facebook.com/usfws">www.facebook.com/usfws</a>, follow our tweets at <a href="www.twitter.com/usfwshq">www.twitter.com/usfwshq</a>, watch our YouTube Channel at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/usfwsquaddownload">http://www.youtube.com/usfwsquaddownload</a> photos from our Flickr page at <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq">http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq</a>.

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